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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stearns Takes Top Honor for Engineering Excellence

Geneva, IL. February 14, 2012. The award-winning Stearns Road Bridge Corridor project, the largest infrastructure project in Kane County history, has received the state's most prestigious honor for engineering excellence. Presented annually to only one engineering project in Illinois, the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois has presented Kane County and a dozen of its engineering firm partners on the landmark Stearns project with the council's to honor, the 2012 Eminent Conceptor Award.

The award was presented Feb. 3 at the organization's 41st Annual Engineering Excellence Awards luncheon. The Stearns Road transportation project was selected from among 12 Honor Award recipients that had been recognized by the Council "for exceptional engineering that meets the need of the client and benefit the public welfare." The latest awards are the project's eighth and ninth.

"This is really the 'Super Bowl' of engineering awards in Illinois, and an unbelievable honor," said Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay.

"The term 'Eminent Conceptor' is right on target," said county board Transportation Committee chairman Cathy Hurlbut. "Beyond the merit of the project, and the ingenuity of the engineering achievement, the name of the award really speaks to the long-term vision of the County Board members who sought solutions to pressing transportation issues and did so in a manner that enhanced the rich natural resources along the corridor, at the Fox River in particular," said Hurlbut.

"This is a story of teamwork and collaboration that leaves the environment in a better place," said Kane County Division of Transportation director Carl Schoedel. "I always describe this as a 'once in a career' project – especially at the County government level. My staff and I have been blessed to work on this project, and I thank the County Board for the opportunity to be part of the project team," he said.

For a perspective on the county's latest engineering achievement - the Stearns Road project has now received nine awards - McConnaughay "To understand the significance of this achievement, one only has to look back at past award winners and see that the Stearns Road project is ranked among such high-profile projects as Millennium Park, Wacker Drive, Lake Shore Drive and region's major Interstate and expressway projects over the last few decades," she said.

Stearns Road team members included: Alfred Benesch & Company; Bowman, Barrett & Associates, Inc.; Bollinger, Lach & Associates, Inc.; Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.; Civiltech Engineering, Inc.; Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick, Inc.; Huff & Huff, Inc.; McDonough Associates, Inc.; Michael Baker Jr., Inc.; Omega & Associates; T.Y. Lin International Great Lakes, Inc.; URS Corporation; and Wills Burke Kelsey Associates, Ltd.

The 4.6-mile-long Stearns Road Bridge Corridor, which extends from Randall Road in Kane County to Stearns Road in DuPage County, was opened to traffic in December, 2010. The \$165 million project took more than four years to complete. Through the provision of federal, state and local funding and the efforts of many resource agencies, Kane County was able to develop a new bridge corridor that also rewarded the region with 216 acres of new open space, restored native prairie, an oak savanna and wetlands for the enjoyment of generations to come.

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